## Menshek, Peggy Y

From:

CMCarrie Juntunen <plavclothesco@iuno.com>

Sent:

Thursday, March 01, 2012 7:58 AM Redistricting2012; Larry@hnampls.org

To: Cc:

cilea2003@yahoo.com

Subject:

More Reasons to Keep Harrison Whole

To: Redistricting Commission, City of Minneapolis:

I have been a Harrison Neighborhood resident for 25+ years, business owner in the neighborhood, community activist and Minneapolis Election Judge. I would submit the following reasons to keep Harrison as one precinct in Minneapolis:

- 1. As a long term Minneapolis Election Judge who has served Ward 5, Precinct 6, I am aware that a very large proportion of the voters in this precinct either walk, bike, or use public transportation to get to the polling place. I assume splitting Harrison would eliminate the polling place currently at Heritage-on-the-Pond (and previously locating at Harry Davis Academy). The residents of Park Place Apartments, Olson Townhomes and Heritage-on-the-Pond are largely communities of color, poor, disabled, and/or elderly. To move those 2000+residents of northside/Glenwood Avenue to a polling place to the north of Hwy 55 would put them at a distinct disadvantage to even get to the polls. Access across Hwy 55 is not accesible by foot, bike or public transportation. I believe this would go a long way toward disenfranchising this entire neighborhood's residents.
- 2. Harrison is a small neighborhood and a split would be harmful to election turnout, dilute the voting base, and marginalize a low-income neighborhood. Harrison is only 3,200 people, splitting the neighborhood would leave only 1,500 voters in each Ward. It would be even more difficult to advance community issues and agenda.
- 3. Harrison should remain in Ward 5! Residents want a fair opportunity to elect a representative of their choice. The Federal law requires that racial and language minorities have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Harrison is 70% people of color with a median income of \$38,000 and the community to the South is 86% White with a median income of \$64,000. Peeling off Harrison voters and moving them into Ward 7 may be a violation of the Voting Rights Act. This split, in my opinion, would reestablish segregation in Minneapolis that was outlawed by the Holman Decree.
- 4. Ensure Northside Representation of Northside Opportunity! Contiguous land with similar zoning should be in the same Ward. Ward lines should not create islands disconnecting people from opportunity and representation.

I am strongly in support of the map created by the Community with the assistance of Mike Dean from Common Cause located at:

http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/districtmapping/plan/468/view

Thank you for consideration.

CMCarrie Juntunen the Play-Clothes Co. 1703 Second Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55405-1729 612-377-3189 playclothesco@juno.com